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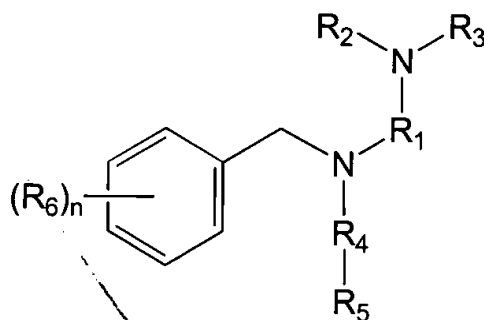
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1. (Twice Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_1 or C_{3-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{4-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of a bond and C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene, said alkyl, alkenyl and alkenylene optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen or oxo groups;

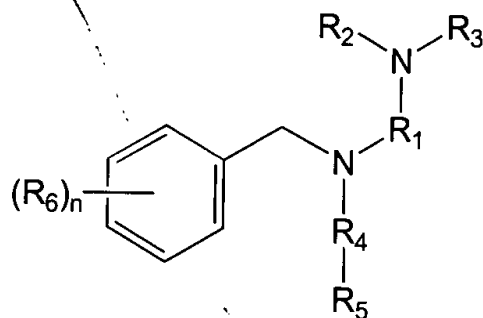
R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a 5 or 6 membered aromatic or heteroaromatic group, and a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0-3; and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

11.(Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of a bond, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene, said alkyl, alkenyl and alkenylene optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen groups;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a 5 or 6 membered aromatic or heteroaromatic group, and a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl and halogen; and n is an integer from 0-3; and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12.(Amended) A compound of claim 11 wherein R_1 is propyl.

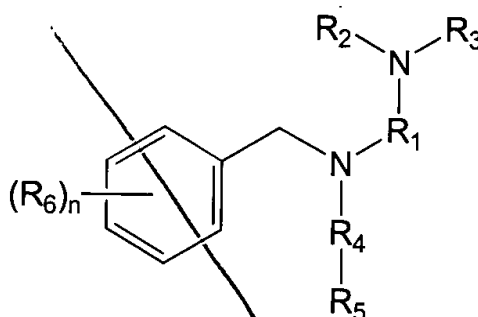
13.(Amended) A compound of claim 11 wherein R_2 is butyl.

14.(Amended) A compound of claim 11 wherein R_4 is selected from a bond, methyl or ethyl, wherein the methyl and ethyl are optionally substituted with a halogen group.

15.(Amended) A compound of claim 11 wherein R_5 is phenyl.

16.(Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 11 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17.(Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{4-10} alkyl, alkenyl or alkenylene;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of a bond and C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene, said alkyl, alkenyl and alkenylene optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen or oxo groups;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a 5 or 6 membered aromatic or heteroaromatic group, and a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl and halogen; and n is an integer from 0-3; and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18.(Amended) A compound of claim 17 wherein R₁ is butyl.

19.(Amended) A compound of claim 17 wherein R₂ is butyl.

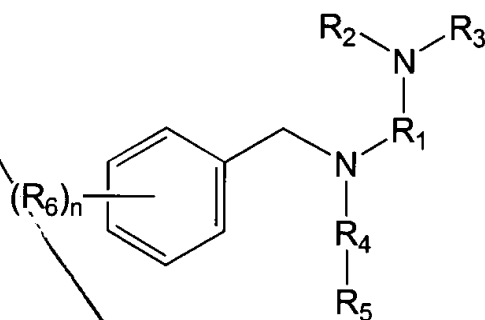
20.(Amended) A compound of claim 17 wherein R₄ is selected from a bond, methyl or ethyl, wherein the methyl and ethyl are optionally substituted with an oxo group.

21.(Amended) A compound of claim 17 wherein R₅ is phenyl.

22. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 17 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Please **add** the following new claims:

23. (New) A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{5-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and C_{2-10} alkenylene

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of a bond and C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and a C_{2-10} alkenylene, said alkyl, alkenyl and alkenylene optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen or oxo groups;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a 5 or 6 membered aromatic or heteroaromatic group, and a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl and halogen; and n is an integer from 0-3; and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 23 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

I. Status of the Claims

The Examiner indicated that claims 8-19, introduced by amendment on January 18, 2002 have been renumbered as claims 11-21. It is respectfully submitted that these claims should be renumbered as 11-22. Accordingly, the newly added claims in the present amendment begin at claim number 23.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 11-24 are pending. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice, claims 1, 7 and 11-22 have been amended and new claims 23-24 have been added. Support for the claims as amended can be found throughout the specification, e.g. the originally filed claims. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 and 11-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of the Ajisawa reference. The Examiner stated with respect to the Ajisawa reference that "*the claimed species differs by one carbon in the variable of R₁ and by one carbon in the variable at R₂. The compound would have been obvious to make, at the time that applicants invention was made, because Ajisawa suggests the compound.*"

In response, the Examiner is directed to independent claim 1, which has been amended in order to differentiate over the Ajisawa patent by at least one carbon at three different positions (at the R₁, R₂ and R₃ positions). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not *prima facie* obvious over the Ajisawa reference as one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify the compounds described therein at the R₁, R₂ and R₃ positions as recited in independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 11, this claim has been amended to delete the possibility that the R₄ substituent can be further substituted with an oxo group. The Ajisawa reference describes a mandatory oxo substitution in the compounds described therein and does not teach or suggest compounds without this substitution. Accordingly, independent claim 11 encompasses compounds that are not structurally similar or adjacent homologs to the Ajisawa reference and the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the rejection.